

Message Text

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63

ACTION IO-11

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TAGS: PARM, TECH, IAEA

SUBJECT: WORKING GROUP MEETING ON ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF PNE--
FIRST DAY

DEPT PASS IO/SCT

1. SUBJECT MEETING COMMENCED 15 MARCH WITH MORNING AND BRIEF AFTERNOON SESSIONS. CHAIRMAN ANNOUNCED BY SECRETARIAT IS ST. CLAIR HOOD (UK). SCIENTIFIC SECRETARY IS OLE PEDERSEN (IAEA). THREE CONSULTANTS ARE HOOD, PRIETO CALDERON (MEXICO) AND L. MATEJKA (CZECHOSLOVAKIA). HENRY ROWEN IS A SPECIAL ADVISER FOR THE IAEA. A TOTAL OF 41 OBSERVERS, INCLUDING 26 FROM LOCAL MISSIONS, ARE LISTED BY IAEA. ARGENTINA, BULGARIA, DENMARK, EGYPT, HUNGARY, INDONESIA, JAPAN, NETHERLANDS, NORWAY, PAKISTAN, POLAND, ROMANIA, SOUTH AFRICA AND THAILAND ARE REPRESENTED BY LOCAL MISSION PERSONNEL ONLY. AUSTRALIA, BELGIUM, CZECHOSLOVAKIA, FINLAND, FRANCE, GDR, FRG, INDIA, ITALY, UK AND U.S. ARE REPRESENTED BY EXPERTS FROM OUT OF TOWN PLUS IN SOME CASES MISSION PERSONNEL. ALAN WILSON, CHAIRMAN OF THE AD HOC ADVISORY GROUP, IS ONE OF THE AUSTRALIAN OBSERVERS.

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2. NO CONSULTANT OR OBSERVER FROM THE USSR IS PARTICIPATING, ALTHOUGH MISHARIN FROM THE USSR MISSION WAS PRESENT BRIEFLY DURING THE MORNING SESSION. ACCORDING TO THE SECRETARIAT THE SOVIETS INFORMED THE IAEA THAT THERE WAS NOT TIME TO ARRANGE FOR A ECONOMIC EXPERT TO COME, ALTHOUGH THE EXPERTS FOR THE HEALTH AND SAFETY MEETING MIGHT COME A FEW DAYS EARLY AND BRING SOMMENTS ON ROWEN'S PAPER.

3. MORNING WAS SPENT IN OPENING STATEMENT BY HOOD AND BRIEF COMMENTS BY THE CONSULTANTS AND SEVERAL OBSERVERS. OTHER THAN TOWEN, FEW IF ANY OF THE ATTENDEES ARE ECONOMISTS AND THIS AFFECTED THE RATHER FALTERING MANNER IN WHICH THE GROUP APPROACHED ITS TASK. THE MEXICAN CONSULTANT, WHO TOGETHER WITH FRG OBSERVER ADMITTED HE HAD NOT HAD TIME TO STUDY PAPER, FELT THAT INCLUDING NON-PNE ALTERNATIVES MADE THE TASK TOO DIFFICULT AND THAT STUDY THEREFORE SHOULD ADDRESS ONLY COSTS OF VARIOUS PNE APPLICATIONS. OTHERS, INCLUDING THE UK, FELT THAT SINCE THE IAEA SHOULD NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR DECIDING WHETHER A PARTICULAR PNE PROJECT SHOULD BE UNDERTAKEN, THE STUDY SHOULD NOT INCLUDE COST-BENEFIT ANALYSES. INDIAN OBSERVER COMPLAINED THAT ROWEN DRAFT DID NOT CONVEY OPTIMISM OF PAST IAEA PNE DOCUMENTS. WILSON STRESSED THAT IN ORDER FOR ADVISORY GROUP TO BE ABLE TO REACH CONCLUSIONS ON USEFULNESS OF PNES, THE ECONOMIC STUDY WOULD HAVE TO INCLUDE ESTIMATES OF RESOURCES WHICH MIGHT BE RECOVERABLE BY PNE EVEN THOUGH ECONOMICS OF RECOVERY UNKNOWN. JAPANESE OBSERVER RAISED QUESTION OF JUST WHAT R AND D COSTS WERE TO BE OMITTED FROM DEVICE CHARGES IN ACCORDANCE WITH NPT ARTICLE 5. COMMENT: IT WILL TAKE AT LEAST A DAY OR TWO FOR THESE MISUNDERSTANDINGS OR UNCERTAINTIES TO BE STRAIGHTENED OUT, BUT INDICATIONS ARE THAT GENERAL APPROACH IN ROWEN'S DRAFT ON THESE POINTS WILL BE ACCEPTED. A CONSENSUS WAS ALSO DEVELOPING THAT, WISHES TO THE CONTRARY, A FORECAST OF WORLD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RESOURCES RECOVERABLE BY PNES CANNOT BE MADE. END COMMENT

4. THE CHAIRMAN SUGGESTED THAT THE OBJECTIVES OF THE MEETING SHOULD BE TO ACHIEVE CONSENSUS ON (A) THE PROCEDURES OR METHODOLOGY FOR COMPARATIVE COST ASSESSMENTS OF PNE AND ALTERNATIVE TECHNIQUES; (B) THE ECONOMIC STATUS AND PROSPECTS OF VARIOUS PNE APPLICATIONS; AND (C) RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER STUDIES OF

ECONOMICS OF PNE. GROUP ACCEPTED THIS AND
CHAIRMAN'S SUGGESTION TO HAVE TWO SUB-GROUPS MEET
ON TUESDAY TO WORK ON (A) AND (B) TASKS.STONE

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